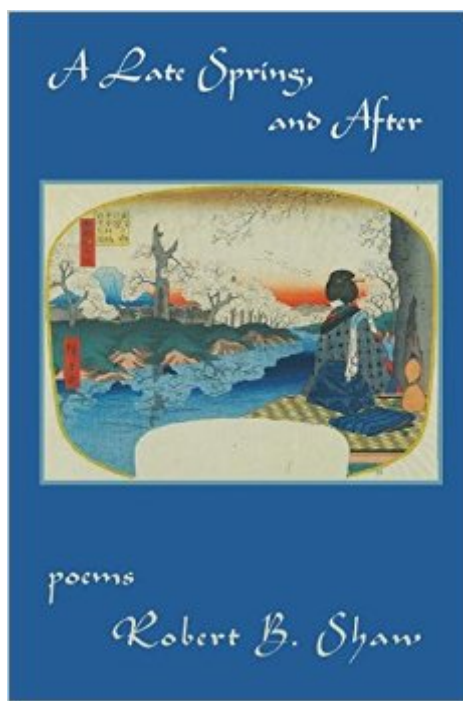


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A Late Spring, And After



Synopsis

Robert B. Shaw explores the depths of experience, childhood, memory, and his midwestern roots: "The days go slowly but the years go fast. / Old movies used to bridge the story's gaps / by morphing falling leaves to frantic snow ..." The heart of his book is a series of meditations on his wife's illness, passing, and what remains after--the vivid memories of time well-spent: "We used to work / together at it, each on a different side, / she stirring, measuring, tasting, I / chopping, dicing, mincing as required. / Rocking the blade the way she showed me to, / I freed from each raw thing a smell we liked: / the garlic's earthy reek, the ginger's sting, / the anise wisping up from celery leaves." "Robert B. Shaw anchors *A Late Spring*, and *After* with a group of beautiful elegies for his wife. These recall, in their deep feeling and stylistic distinction, Thomas Hardy's "Poems of 1912-13." No less impressive are the other poems in this book. Time and again, Shaw brings his subjects to life with memorable description. Handles of tools look "like lemon jelly petrified." A man smokes on a dark porch at night, "making himself evident by inhaling, / rousing an ember-dot of hot vermilion." And the subjects themselves encompass an extraordinarily wide range of experience. Plants and animals, youth and age, private life and public history--everything is here in glorious enchantment and detail."--Timothy Steele

Robert B. Shaw is the author of six books of poetry, the latest of which, *Aromatics*, was co-winner of The Poets' Prize. For his prose work, *Blank Verse: A Guide to Its History and Use*, he received the Robert Fitzgerald Award. He recently retired from Mount Holyoke College, where he was the Emily Dickinson Professor of English.

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